(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Ministry of Commerce have not received any request from Confederation of Indian Industries for the development of trade fair grounds in the metropolitan cities of the country.

(c) and (d). Ministry of Commerce have not entered in any agreement for organising joint trade fairs in the country and abroad.

(e) This Ministry have requested CII to prepare an Approach Paper for development of Trade Fair Complexes in the country. State Governments have also been requested to consider setting up of Permanent Exhibition Complexes.

[English]

Handloom Development Centres

1211. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received for setting up of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Centres sanctioned and set up out of it, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning the remaining proposals, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). During last three years, the State Governments had sent viable proposals for 1198 Handloom Development Centres and 236 Quality Dyeing Units, which were duly considered and Central Grant sanctioned. Besides locations for 181 Handloom Development Centres and 46 Quality Dyeing Units were also approved to facilitate Cash Credit tie up. A statement showing state-wise number of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units sanctioned is enclosed.

STATEMENT

S.No.	State	No. of HDCs sanctioned	No. of QDUs sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127	40
2.	Assam	103	-
3.	Bihar	49	16
4.	Gujarat	6	-
5.	Haryana	1	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	10	1
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	-
8.	Karnataka	23	4
9.	Kerala	82	8
10.	Madhya Pradesh	28	6
11.	Manipur	137	7
12.	Maharashtra	20	3
13.	Nagaland	2	-
14.	Orissa	141	35
15.	Rajasthan	1	-
16.	Tamil Nadu	248	28
17.	Tripura	13	10
18.	Uttar Pradesh	83	50
19.	West Bengal	136	28
20.	Pondicherry	5	-
	Total	1198	236

[Translation]

High Court Benches

1212. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of Jaswant Singh Commission with regard to setting up of benches of various High Courts of the country;

(b) whether the Government have accepted these recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The Jaswant Singh Commission recommended establishment of benches of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras High Courts at Agra, Raipur and Madurai respectively. The Commission also made general recommendations on the broad principles and criteria to be followed in the matter of establishing High Court benches. The report which was presented to the Government by the Commission on 30.4.85 was placed in the Parliamment Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 21.4.87. Specific recommendations of the Commission regarding the three High Courts were referred to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in October, 1986 for views/comments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts. The general recommendations of the Commission were sent

to all the State Governments in September, 1987 for information and guidance. No specific, complete proposal has been received from any of the State Governments, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concern High Court, for establishment of benches of High Courts away from their principal seats. In view of this, it is not possible for the Central Government to take further action in the matter.

[English]

Excise Duty Evasion by Tobacco Manufacturers

1213. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Excise officials have busted a racket in excise duty evasion by chewing tobacco manufacturers worth over Rs. 30 crore;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of evasion of excise duty;

(c) the steps taken to recover the same; and

(d) the measures taken to stop this racket of excise evasion by these chewing tobacco manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Acting on intelligence, premises of certain manufacturers of chewing tobacco were raided by Central Excise Officers of Delhi Commissionerate.

Investigations conducted revealed that these manufacturers were manufacturing and removing the preparations of chewing tobacco without payment of duty and without obtaining Central Excise Registration. The duty evaded is estimated to the tune of Rs. 35 crores.

Recovery proceedings can be initiated only after adjudication in accordance with provisions of Central Excise Act and the Rules made thereunder.

Regarding the measures to stop evasion, preventive checks have been intensified including increased surveillance on the activity of chewing tobacco manufacturers.

Setting up of EOUs in Orissa

1214. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to set up cent percent Export Oriented Units in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). 46 proposals have been approved for setting up Export Oriented Units in Orissa out of which eight units are already operational. Seven units are presently in various stages of implementation and two proposals are under consideration of the Government.

Merger of Insurance Schemes

1215. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge various insurance schemes like Hut Insurance Scheme, Personal Accident Insurance Scheme, Social Security Scheme etc. of General Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made to ensure that these schemes cover all those persons who live below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Hut Insurance Scheme is intended to provide relief to the poor families in rural areas, whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs.4,800/-, when their huts and belongings in the huts get destroyed by the fire. The Personal Accident Social Security Scheme for poor families (PASS) covers, all earning members, both in urban and rural areas, in the age group of 18 to 60 years whose total family income from all sources does not exceed Rs.7.200/- per annum, against accidental deaths. As the purpose of the covers, and the target groups covered are different under the two schemes, no proposal is under consideration of the Govt. to merge them into a single scheme.

Losses in HMT

1216. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the losses of the Hindustan Machine tools has been increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the loses suffered by HMT during each of the last three years;

(c) the factors responsible for such losses; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make the HMT out of red?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The losses incurred by HMT during the last three years are as under:

Year	Rs. in cr.
1993-94	119.26
1994-95	79.20
1995-96	55.89

(c) The factors responsible for losses in HMT include stiff competition, product obsolecence and high overheads etc.